

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF

NORTHFIELD,

1881-2.



GREENFIELD:

W. S. CARSON PRINTER, ARMS' BLOCK.

1882.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

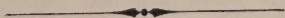
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GREENFIELD:

W. S. CARSON PRINTER, ARMS' BLOCK.

1882.

Your Selectmen in presenting you with the annual summing up of your business for the past year congratulate you upon the favorable condition of the finances of the town. The debt of fifteen hundred dollars contracted as the balance of this town's apportionment of the expense of building the Turners Falls bridge has been paid and a very satisfactory balance in the treasury is shown to the credit of the town. The rate per cent of taxation was reduced the past year to \$1.05 on the \$100 value being the lowest of any town in the county and your assessors feel to hope that from a rate somewhat less than one per cent. the coming year the sum realized will be ample to meet the wants of the town on the basis of the same annual appropriations.

From our observation we are led to the conclusion that our present method of repairing the highways is defective and does not result in giving us the "best roads for the least money." In most of the highway districts, the general repairs are not made as early in the year as should be, which it seems to us should be in or near the month of May of each year, but are often delayed until midsummer or perhaps fall before being done, and in this respect it is not the "stitch in time to save nine." If we were to suggest a change it would be in the direction of the town's owning, or hiring, sufficient teams to work the scrapers now owned by the town, where they can be used to advantage, and to commence work as soon as the highways are settled in spring and continuing to work with the same team, from district to district, under the direction of the surveyor of each district. This plan has been adopted by all the surrounding towns and would we think result to us, by reason of doing the work at the best season of the year, by machinery worked by men and teams ready and accustomed to the work, in giving us better roads at less expense.

As our report contains only the payments made within the year it does not show the actual cost of the schools for the year but only the amount of moneys paid within the year as from Feb. 18 to Feb. 18. Thus in No. 3 we have paid this year for four terms of school while in No. 4 only two; in other districts it will

be observed a variation of the same nature exists; the reason of this difference will be readily understood by referring to our report of last year.

It would assist much in showing the actual cost of the schools of each year if it could be arranged to have them *all* close either before or *all* after the time for making up the report in order that the expenses *of* and payments *for* should correspond.

SELECTMEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

Selectmen in account with Town of Northfield.

DR.

To orders drawn upon Treasurer during year, \$7697 22

CR.

By paid L. T. Webster, "selectman"	\$93 75
Asa A. Holton, "	109 30
H. W. Montague, "	51 87
R. C. Ward, "School committee"	78 75
A. C. Parsons "Auditor"	2 00
L. T. Webster, "	2 00
S. G Titus, "	2 00
C. H. Green's, Note and Int.	1597 54
Library Committee	275 00
Contingent Expenses	949 11
Support of Schools	2152 53
Support of Highways,	1406 19
Support of Poor,	977 18
	\$7697 22

L. T. WEBSTER,
H. W. MONTAGUE, } Selectmen.
R. K. CALDWELL, }

Feb. 18th, 1882.

HIGHWAYS.

The following payments have been made during the year which covers the total expenses of repairing the highways and includes snow bills of this winter in amount of about \$80 except of Fred Bass and M. C. Miller, not received.

Marshall H. Day, labor and team,	\$39 26
C. W. Shepardson, "	3 75
A. L. Hale, "	3 50
Henry W. Webster, plank,	1 00
W. D. Alexander, team,	26 05
John H. Stebbins, "	1 00
Joshua Maynard, labor and team,	5 77
S. L. Haley, "	3 40
Joseph Lyman, "	1 80
Clarence Moody, "	3 00
Darius Dickinson, "	1 32
Dickinson Holton, "	1 81
E. O. Wheeler, "	1 05
Henry Wright, 2d, "	75
George F. Moody, "	2 10
Calib Maynard, "	1 50
A. A. Long, "	2 40
Wm. B. Bent, "	1 50
Eli H. Colton, "	75
E. W. Colton, "	2 70
J. Campbell, "	1 50
Tim Crehan, "	1 35
Francis Fisher, "	1 95
Elias Lyman, "	2 25
Isreal Lyman, "	2 85
	\$114 31

Charles S. Worden, labor and team,	\$54 27
H. H. Johnson, " "	19 92
Charles Pomeroy, " "	23 00
H. W. Webster, " "	28 75
M. Piggott, "	1 50
H. J. Evans, "	12 00
Joseph Parks, "	6 45
James Calighan, "	9 75
C. Parker, "	3 00
J. L. Mattoon, " and team,	10 50

George Hill,	labor,	\$3 75
W. Tufts,	"	1 50
James Wall,	"	2 20
Elisha Alexander,	" and team,	22 30
H. H. Mason,	"	2 87
Wright L. Arlin,	"	12 00
Wm. Dale,	"	4 50
A. R. Barber,	"	1 50
James W. Cowles,	" with team,	22 00
David Dale,	"	1 41
David Dale, 2d,	"	11 25
John Dale,	"	10 80
Patrick Dale, 2d	"	5 25
Harrison Moore,	"	76
		\$271 23

Thomas Mason,	labor,	\$25 60
Henry Wright,	"	7 55
J. B. Callender,	"	75
M. Dickinson,	"	10 50
C. X. Janes,	"	11 50
Wright Arlin,	"	5 00
Isaac Mattoon,	"	2 35
O. S. Mattoon,	"	4 60
M. Piggott,	"	1 50
Elisha Alexander,	" and team,	18 00
Charles Pomeroy,	" "	20 00
H. W. Webster,	" "	18 00
Thomas Quinlan,	" "	15 20
		\$140 55

Cornelius Hilliard,	labor,	\$23 20
A. J. Lyman,	" and team,	11 35
Landman Nye,	"	6 03
Fred H. Simonds,	" and team,	16 75
Windsor Morgan,	"	7 44
John E. Nye,	"	4 60
Wesley Mann,	" and team,	22 15
Charles Sherman,	"	4 50
John Murphy,	"	75
Ansel Field,	"	4 75
Otis & Elijah Field,	"	7 38

A. Whitaker,	labor and team,	13 25
James Allen,	"	75
Fred R. Clough,	"	1 95
Henry Holton,	"	59
N. G. Hilliard,	"	3 60
Addison Johnson,	"	75
L. Buzzell,	"	30
Zabina Marsh,		35
Ralph Simonds, labor,		91
S. W. Slate,	"	1 41
		\$132 76

M. C. Miller, labor and team,	\$90 91
L. C. Miller, “	10 28
Freeman Hilliard, labor,	4 65
Lyman Gilbert, “	9 60
Harris Severance, “	1 05
S. Johnson, “	2 10
S. G. Pratt, “	1 50
Charles Morgan, “	1 35
Appollos Morgan, “	2 55
Sumner Stratton, “	2 85
Elisha Stratton, “	2 55
Ezekiel Stratton, “	1 50
Wm. H. Stratton, “	30
Wm. Darling, “	3 75
Wm. Browning, “	3 00
J. Leach, “	1 50
Albert Whitaker, “	6 00
Samuel Stickney, “	5 25
Anson Gage, “	5 25
Thomas Boyle, “	4 50
Charles Banks, “	1 50
Sumner G. Titus, “	3 00
Edward C. Nash, “	4 07
Horace F. Field, “	1 07
H. W. Montage, “	2 57
	\$175 65

Clesson Merriman, labor and team,	\$28 30
Frank Whithead, "	15 50
Oscar Woods, "	3 37

Simon Fisher, labor,	3 95	
Henry W. Stimpson, "	7 47	
Perley Stimpson, "	1 67	
H. J. Dunham, "	4 50	
Frank Farnsworth, "	1 02	
Austin A. Holland, "	4 50	
Charles Moore, "	2 25	
Olean Moore, "	2 25	
Philander Pierce, "	1 58	
Lucian Stimpson, "	60	
Ansel C. Stimpson, "	38	
J. P. Wentworth, "	6 80	
		\$81 14

Myron Chapin, labor and team,	\$13 74	
Earl Chapin, " "	14 22	
Charles L. Robbins, labor,	19 35	
A. Shepardson, "	2 55	
Shepard Holden, "	4 30	
Herbert E. Robbins, "	4 43	
Otis T. Greenleaf, labor and team,	7 26	
Oliver T. Greenleaf, "	1 20	
Frank Piper, "	5 62	
Wm. F. Piper, "	3 50	
Joseph B. Pierce, "	45	
George Murdock, "	3 37	
Edward Turner, labor and team,	9 15	
Ansel Collar, "	2 28	
Melvin J. Collar, "	2 28	
Jonathan R. Stimpson, labor,	1 35	
Isaac Murdock, "	2 25	
		\$100 38

Fred W. Bass, labor and team,	\$15 07	
W. Piper,	90	
Dwight E. Bass, labor,	3 00	
Sumner H. Collar, labor,	6 20	
Benjamin Davis, "	15	
James A. Dresser, "	30	
E. A. Smith, "	3 00	
Willie Piper, "	5 00	

James Bass, Erving, team work,

12 00

\$45 62

John H. Robbins, labor and team,

\$28 35

Frank V. Doolittle, " "

17 25

Edwin Lyman, " "

13 00

Samuel Sawyer, " "

15 00

Roswell Stratton, " "

3 00

Charles S. Keet, " "

7 87

C. M. Baldwin, " "

1 50

Asa A. Holton, " "

7 95

C. W. Stebbins, " "

37

F. J. Stockbridge, " "

3 00

Joel Randall, " "

7 12

Lester Hale, " "

6 75

Charles Stearns, " "

1 00

James Arlin, " "

1 50

H. C. Field, " "

1 54

Alexander Holton, " "

5 00

Frank B. Holton, " "

30

Layfayette Howard, " "

1 50

Stephen Keet, " "

2 07

L. H. Smith, " "

43

123 50

Fred Z. Allen, labor and team,

20 91

Wm. Barrows, " "

7 90

Pickett Brothers, " "

2 13

Henry C. Holton, labor and timber,

8 38

Wm. Bain, " "

2 50

Mrs. Fanny Burrows, labor,

35

James D. Caldwell, " "

31

John O. Caldwell, " "

63

Fred Chickering, " "

30

Frank P. Caldwell, " "

30

John Doolittle, " "

38

Rufus Phelps, " "

94

E. Blanchard, " "

50

John Weeks, " "

52

Geo. R. Stebbins, " "

4 62

Charles L. Holton, " "

1 88

Cyrus Holton, " and team,

4 89

J. D. Prindle, " "

2 85

60 29

Andrew G. Hale, labor and team,	33 70	
E. E. Belden, " "	7 08	
Stephen G. Wilds, " "	12 69	
D. A. Kingsley, " "	6 30	
N. W. Purple, " "	12 05	
R. K. Caldwell, " "	7 15	
S. L. Gates, " "	3 65	
Roswell Holton, " "	3 60	
Clifford J. Holton, " "	30	
Roswell E. Dickinson, labor,	4 56	
Electa R. Dickinson, " "	2 49	
Williams Dickinson, " "	1 04	
David H. Jenkins, " "	30	
Warren W. Brooks, " "	54	
Ozro Doolittle, " "	3 00	
William O. Knights, " "	2 03	
J. L. Preston, " "	1 50	
J. P. Aldrich, " "	99	
George T. Witt, " "	30	
Jerry Twine, " "	53	
J. B. Morgan, " "	30	
William D. Morgan, " "	85	
Mary Kingsley, " "	3 09	
		\$108 34
Charles H. Green, plank and lumber for bridges as per bill,	39 34	
Dwight E. Bass, bridge plank,	3 60	
Myron Chapin, bridge plank,	2 18	
Willam Bain, " "	1 80	
Henry Wright, " sleepers,	5 50	
		\$52 42
Total highways,		1406 19

CONTINGENT AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

PAID AS FOLLOWS.

Chas. Pomeroy, abatement highway tax,	
Perry farm,	3 95
Henry Johnson, abatement highway tax,	
Perry farm,	3 95
S. W. Weatherhead, repairing tomb door,	4 63
F. A. Hilliard, mowing cemetery, 80-81,	4 00
Myron Chapin, " "	1 50
Henry C. Holton, " " "	3 50

A. W. Shepardson, work in cemetery,	\$2 00	
Shepard Holden, " "	2 50	
Henry Wright 2d, mowing cemetery,	7 00	
H. O. Doolittle, " "	2 00	
Myron Chapin, building cemetery fence,	33 42	
		\$68 45

E. O. Wheeler, supporting water trough,	3 00	
Oliver J. Greenleaf, " " 80 & 81	3 00	
H. W. Webster, " "	5 00	
H. B. Parker, " "	2 00	
George F. Moody, for wood,	5 62	
C. W. Williams, wood, town hall,	13 50	
L. T. Webster, wood bought for town hall,	15 13	
Eliphaz Elmore, error of assessment,	94	
John Franklin, error of over assessment,	1 37	
Powers Paper Co., blank book,	2 30	
A. C. Parsons, one barrel cement,	2 10	
Walworth Iron Co., iron pipe for cistern,	3 65	
		\$57 61

Henry Wright 2d, work on cistern,	3 00	
M. A. Moody, masonwork on cistern,	2 50	
H. Wright 2d, overcharge of hall for meetings,	16 50	
Geo J. Bacon, saw plate for scraper,	1 50	
E. H. Starkey, for repairing scraper,	4 20	
H. W. Montague, sundry expenses incurred in setting town cistern,	16 17	
W. S. Carson, Greenfield, printing reports,	27 00	
Mrs. M. Malley, services in Farnsworth family,	5 00	
L. Merriman for list and collector's books,	1 90	
Cleson Merriman services as school com.,	2 00	
H. W. Montague, balance due for services 1880,	5 65	

85 42

L. T. Webster, bal. due for services, 1880,	9 00	
" " for 194 lbs. lead pipe,	13 10	
" " sundry goods as per bill,	19 52	
" " sundry small payments made on account of town, as per bill,	13 51	
Elias Lyman, services as treasurer,	40 00	

Elias Lyman, services as clerk,	46 40	
“ “ sundry cash payments made on account of town, as per bill,	14 18	
Library Committee, town appropriation,	<u>275 00</u>	430 71
Rev. J. L. Marsh, school books bought for town as per bill,	80 37	
A. A. Long, balance due on C. H. Green's note,	1597 54	
R. K. Caldwell, error tax H. Murdock,	2 31	
“ “ abatement tax, G. N. Ellis,	3 16	
“ “ services as constable,	16 00	
“ “ collector,	76 50	
“ “ abatement sundry poor men's taxes assessed in 1880,	57 62	
R. K. Caldwell, discount on taxes,	244 44	
Henry Wright, 2d, for 31 burial permits,	7 75	
“ driving hearse,	52 52	
“ care of town hall,	26 25	
“ care of town clock,	<u>15 00</u>	2179 46
		\$2821 65

PAID ON ACCOUNT OF SCHOOLS, AS FOLLOWS.

DISTRICT NO. I.

Eva G. Slate, teaching and board,	235 00	
Eva I. Stebbins, “ “	235 00	
A. C. Parsons, care of house and articles fur- nished,	13 32	
A. S. Stratton, 12 1-2 cords wood, \$4	<u>50 00</u>	533 32

DISTRICT NO. II.

Everett Lyman, teaching and board,	120 00	
E. F. Bartlett, “ “	80 00	
Maria E. Crawford, teaching and board,	80 00	
M. H. Day, expenses incurred in 1880,	8 38	
Joshua Maynard, articles furnished and care of house,	9 96	
Elias Lyman, cash expense, account schools,	1 95	
“ “ wood furnished,	<u>16 60</u>	316 89

DISTRICT NO. III.

Irene L. Mattoon, teaching and board,	204 00
Mary E. Hillard, " "	72 00
N. G. Hillard, articles for wants of schools,	5 21
Clinton A. Ware, care of house, etc.,	4 70
Ansel Field, paid cleaning school house,	2 00
" " 4 cords wood,	19 00

 306 91

DISTRICT NO. IV.

Belle S. Benjamin, teaching,	105 00
H. W. Montague, boarding teacher,	52 50
Geo. F. Alexander, wood,	22 40

 179 90

DISTRICT NO. V.

Cora B. Holton, teaching,	39 00
Lottie S. Holton, "	39 00
Franklin Whithead,	48 00
Simon S. Fisher, wood, etc.,	3 50

 129 50

DISTRICT NO. VI.

Gertrude Mattoon, teaching and board,	46 97
Nellie A. Wentworth, teaching and board,	111 71
Otis T. Greenleaf, carrying scholars from No. to 11, winter of '80 and '81,	36 00
Otis T. Greenleaf, drawing wood,	1 00
Dwight E. Bass, furnishing wood,	2 00

 197 68

DISTRICT NO. VII.

Belle C. Metcalf, teaching with board,	158 25
Maria H. Colton, " "	60 00
N. W. Purple, carrying scholars winter 1880 and 1881,	36 00
Sumner G. Gates, 1 1-2 cords wood,	6 00
James Greenwood, care of house,	2 73

 262 98

DISTRICT NO. VIII.

George R. Stebbins, ferrying scholars from No. 8 to No. 1,	14 00
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DISTRICT NO. IX.

Alice M. Titus, teaching,	35 00
E. Rhoad, "	91 00
H. M. Ward, boarding teacher,	77 00
S. N. Bartlett, care school house,	5 00
E. E. Russell, furnished for school,	3 35

 211 35

Total on account of schools,

2152 53

ASSESSORS' REPORT.

Value of Real Estate,	\$561,913 00
“ Personal Estate,	70,764 00

Total valuation May 1, 1881, \$632,677 00

Number of acres of land assessed,	20,010
“ dwelling houses, “	379
“ horses, “	375
“ cows, “	627
“ sheep, “	659
“ polls “	424

TOWN ASSESSMENT FOR 1881.

Voted for schools,	\$2000 00
“ Highways and bridges,	1500 00
“ Contingent expenses,	2000 00
“ Town library,	275 00
“ Payment County tax,	1194 44
“ State tax,	645 00

\$7614 44

TOTAL RAISED BY TAX.

On polls,	848 00
“ personal estate,	743 02
“ real estate,	6023 42

\$7614 44

Rate per cent. \$1 05.

Tax on each poll, \$2.00.

L. T. WEBSTER,	} Assessors
H. W. MONTAGUE,	
R. K. CALDWELL,	

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The contract under which Henry Wright, 2d, has supported the poor for the last three years expired April 3d, last. Your Overseers have entered into another contract with Mr. Wright for their support for another three years; his proposals for a continuance of the contract were the most favorable received, and in consideration of this, as well as the uniformly good care and kindness they have received in the many years he has had them under his charge, together with the feelingly expressed wish of all of those living at his house to remain, we felt it would be for the best interests for the poor, and the town, to again contract with Mr. Wright.

The number of persons now fully supported by the town with Mr. Wright is less than at any time for many years, consisting only of Hubbard Phelps, age 81, David Belknap, age 79, and Lucretia Sawyer, age 48.

The expense of our poor has been less than for several years, and including those at the Insane Asylum at Worcester nearly one half the expense has been for those we could not bring here for support.

L. T. WEBSTER,	} Overseers of the Poor.
H. W. MONTAGUE,	
R. K. CALDWELL,	

PAID FOR SUPPORT OF POOR.

Henry Wright, 2d, for support of poor persons at his house, for year ending April 1, 1882,	\$403 46
Town of Easthampton, assistance and burial of Mrs. Kemplin,	83 02
Dr. Trow of Easthampton, medical services rendered Mrs. Kemplin,	75 00
Town of Leicester, aid family Francis Labontte,	30 00
Town Chesterfield, burial expenses Esther Pratt,	28 25
S. B. Putney, medical assistance,	45 00
Dr. R. C. Ward, med. attendance, C. O. Holton,	26 50
Dr. Johnson, Orange, med. " " "	13 00
Wm. Burns, board and care in sickness of F. Magoon,	15 00
Dr. R. C. Ward, med. attendance Chas. Lord,	6 50
Wm. H. Holton, board of Charles Lord,	40 50
Charles L. Robbins, board of Emory Robbins,	78 00
Hariet Akeley, board Wm. Webster,	65 00
J. L. Preston, board James Reed,	10 00
City of Springfield, aid Mrs. Zabina Marsh,	3 25
City of Boston, on account Susanne Grout,	3 05
Town of Wendell, on account " " "	8 00
" Montague, " " "	10 00
Bridgewater work house, on account Susanna Grout,	18 25
J. N. Caldwell, digging grave,	2 50
Paid expenses incurred by overseers in visiting and moving poor,	12 90
	\$977 18
Receivd of R. K. Caldwell, guardian of Lucreta Sawyer, for her board at Henry Wright's, 2d,	88 50
Total expense of poor proper,	\$889 68
Paid Worcester Lunatic Hospital for burial Mary Pierson,	172 52
" " " " board Cath. Hamell,	172 52
	345 04
Received of R. K. Caldwell, guardian of Mary Pierson,	82 00
	263 04
Actual cost of all poor,	\$1152 72

ELIAS LYMAN, TREASURER,

In account with the Town of Northfield from February 18th,
1881, to February 18th, 1882.

RECEIPTS.

By cash in Treasury, Feb. 18th, 1881,	\$2740 06
Received of R. K. Caldwell, tax 1880,	729 29
“ “ “ tax 1881,	7000 00
“ State treasurer, corporation tax,	729 74
“ “ “ national bank tax,	446 48
“ “ “ school fund,	226 34
“ County treasurer, dog fund,	102 70
“ J. S. Pickard, liquor license,	100 00
“ Overseers Poor, act. M. Pierson,	82 00
“ “ L. Sawyer,	88 50
“ “ Warwick,	21 00
“ “ Natick,	8 04
“ Town of Bernardston,	1 15
“ Rent of Town hall,	40 00
“ Interest on surplus revenue,	24 00
“ Auctioneer's licenses,	4 00
“ J. L. Marsh, sale school books,	3 95

\$12,347 25

ELIAS LYMAN, TREASURER,

In account with the Town of Northfield from February 18th,
1881 to February 18th, 1882.

EXPENDITURES.

To paid outstanding order,	\$3 95
Selectmen's orders,	7697 21
County tax,	1194 44
State tax,	645 00
Lunatic Hospital, Worcester,	345 04
State aid,	36 00
One fourth of liquor license,	25 00
Cash in treasury as per settlement,	2400 61
	\$12,347 25

Northfield, Feb. 18th, 1882.

We have this day examined the accounts of Elias Lyman,
Treasurer of Northfield, and find the same correct and properly
vouched for.

A. C. PARSONS, }
C. A. WARE, } Auditors.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN,

February 18th, 1882.

Cash in treasury as per settlement with Treasurer this day,	2400 61
Due from Collector for tax 1881,	540 98
Due from the State, support of State paupers,	110 00
Due Interest surplus revenue,	28 00

\$3079 59

DUE AS PER AUDITORS' REPORT.

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor ;

L. T. Webster,	71 63
H. W. Montague,	45 00
R. K. Caldwell,	67 37

School Committee :

Rev. J. L. Marsh,	84 00
Elias Lyman,	6 75
Clesson Merriman,	3 50

Auditors' Bills ;

A. C. Parsons,	2 00
C. A. Ware,	2 00

282 25

Balance in favor of the town,

\$2797 34

L. T. WEBSTER,	} Selectmen of Northfield
H. W. MONTAGUE,	
R. K. CALDWELL,	

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

In the discharge of the duties entrusted to us as your School Committee we respectfully submit the following report of the condition of our public schools.

To say that the schools in our town have all been as satisfactory as we could wish through the past year, would be to state what we do not think; but to say that our schools have had fully an average year of prosperity we think is true.

There have been 32 weeks of school in every district except No. 5 and No. 6. No. 5 has had two terms of 12 weeks each. No. 6 has had 3 terms amounting to 28 weeks.

DISTRICT NO. I,

Has occupied during the year the new school house; the pleasant rooms, the comfortable seats, the inviting appearance and convenience of the house has imparted a healthy look and spirit to the schools and the scholars have made good progress. This district has been fortunate in having through the year the same teachers.

The primary department has been under the management of Miss Eva Slate, whose services have given good satisfaction, and who is awake to the growing needs of the school. In this school there have been enrolled through the year, 49 different pupils, with an average membership of 35.72 and an average attendance of 31.09.

The grammar department has been in the care of Miss Eva Stebbins whose aptness to teach, together with her normal training and her earnestness has made the year's school very satisfactory. There have been enrolled here through the year 35 different pupils, with an average membership of 27.4, and an average attendance of 22.64.

DISTRICT NO. II,

Has been less fortunate. The year began with much prom-

ise under the care of Miss Cummings, Unfortunately she was taken ill before she fairly began her her work, and was not able to go on with the school. Mrs. E. F. Bartlett a teacher of considerable experience was then secured, but we regret to say that the school did not show the improvement it ought to have shown with a mental qualification which was no doubt equal to the place, and a character and bearing that was always gentle and lady-like; she yet lacked the force of animation and discipline that would have made the school a success. She was succeeded by Miss Mamie Crawford who while possessing many elements of a good teacher, was lacking in the experience that would have made the term more satisfactory to herself and beneficial to the school.

The third term under the care of Mr. Everett Lyman has brought more satisfaction and less complaint.

Whole number enrolled through the year,	44
Average membership,	34.5
Average attendance,	30.7

DISTRICT NO. III,

Has been fortunate in retaining the same teacher through the year. Miss Irene Mattoon as teacher has shown an aptitude for teaching and an earnestness and enthusiasm in her work which has given good results.

During the last month the school was quite badly broken up by sickness, and many children were perhaps needlessly kept from school. There has been enrolled through the year 33 different pupils, with an average membership of 24, and an average attendance of 20.

DISTRICT NO. IV.

At the beginning of the year was under the care of Miss Belle Benjamin whose success as a thorough teacher and disciplinarian is well established. At the close of the fall term she was constrained to give up the school, as the sickness of her father seemed to require her services at home.

Miss Florence Crocker, a graduate of the Bridgwater normal school was secured for the winter term. Miss Crocker is

a well qualified teacher who brings a good training and much fidelity to the service of the school, and notwithstanding she falls below her predecessor in discipline, she has won the respect and love of the scholars and a fairly good service in the school.

The number of different scholars enrolled for the year is 33. Average membership 25.4; average attendance 22.8.

DISTRICT NO. V.

Miss Lottie Holton taught here during the spring term with fair success. The second term was taught by Miss Cora Holton with her usual good success. The sickness of the teacher caused a break of three weeks during the term.

There were enrolled through the year 15 different scholars. An average membership of 12.7; average attendance 10.6.

DISTRICT NO. VI.

In order to accommodate the scholars of this large but thinly settled district, the committee tried the experiment of giving a term of school in each of the three school houses. Accordingly the spring term of ten weeks was held in the school house of the old No. 11 district across "the swamp," with Miss Nellie Wentworth as teacher. There was here a membership of 11 pupils with an average attendance of 9.

The second term was held in the house of the old "Union district" on the edge of Erving. The same teacher, though now under the name of Mrs. Nellie Dresser, had care of the school of 8 weeks here, and with fair success. Here there was an enrollment of 11 and an average attendance of 9.35.

The next term of 8 weeks was held in the "Greenleaf district" house. Miss Gertrude Mattoon here taught successfully the 6 scholars who formed the school membership for the term. The average attendance for the term was 5.06. During the year there have been enrolled in the three schools of this district, 22 different pupils with an average attendance of only 7.8.

DISTRICT NO. VII.

Has had 3 teachers through the year. Miss Belle Metcalf

taught the spring term with rather indifferent results, but with a general good feeling so far as your committee know. It was thought best however, as Miss Metcalf had taught here several terms, to make a change of teachers. Accordingly Miss May Colton in the fall began here her experience as a teacher. Her success was not so great as we had hoped it would be. While winning the love and respect of all the scholars she lacked that animation and force, as well the experience which is so necessary to the successful teacher.

Mr. J. J. Stearns a thoroughly qualified scholar was secured for the third term; but while his scholarly qualifications are very ample, the school, we regret to say, has not been a success. His lack of experience, his thorough conscientiousness, and his desire to have a thoroughly disciplined school, have combined, strange as it may seem, to defeat his own ends.

DISTRICT NO. VIII.

There being no suitable school house in this district and the number of scholars so small, there has been no school here during the year. The scholars of the district have been schooled some in No. 1, some in No. 7, and some in Bernardston.

DISTRICT NO. IX.

The year opened in this district with Miss Alice Titus as teacher. This was her first experience as a teacher and the results were not so good as we could have wished. The next two terms were under Miss E. Rhoad, whose services have given excellent satisfaction and should if possible be retained.

There have been enrolled here through the year 34. Average membership 21.79. Average attendance 19.66.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

The various school houses in town, so far as they are used, are in pretty good repair. The new house in district No. 1, is not only an ornament to the town, but it is a great help to the teachers, who find that it is much easier to impart instruction and to inspire respect in a building that commands respect and demands knowledge. The house in No. 8, was suffered to fall

to pieces and the school in that district was discontinued by the committee.

The citizens in No. 7 have made some needed repairs upon their house and put it in good condition. There is in all of the school houses in town a lack of blackboard room. There is no more useful apparatus in our schools than the blackboard. It is the experience of teachers that blackboard work is the most profitable instruction that can be given. The schools that show the most progress are the schools that do the most work upon the blackboard. It has been the effort of the superintending committee to encourage the use of the blackboard, but in many cases the board room is so small, and so far from black, or in such a position or condition, that but little use can be made of it. As a general thing all the available room in school houses should be occupied by blackboards.

Another help to the teacher and the scholars would be some maps and writing charts to hang upon the walls of the school room. The money spent for maps, charts, numeral frames, and such apparatus as can be in daily use in our schools is a good investment.

It has been the effort of the committee to encourage habits of neatness and cleanliness on the part of both teachers and scholars. In this respect the districts ought to always set the example by keeping their school house neatly whitewashed, not only the ceiling but the walls as well.

The expense of kalsomining the walls of the school house would be but little and the appearance of the house be vastly improved. The windows in some of the school rooms show a sad need of soap and water, and most all of them are destitute of curtains. The stove is often placed in the midst of a frame of dirt, or surrounded by broken bricks that have to do service as a door catch or for a draft, or for a zinc, and the stove pipe would often shame the poorest room of the poorest home in the district. Let the district set the example in these things and the teachers and scholars will be glad to follow.

The inhabitants of the "mountain districts" feel justly, that they are very inconveniently located as to their school houses. The consolidation of the mountain districts into one should be

followed by consolidation of their school houses, or in other words that the old school houses be replaced by one in some location that will accommodate the people of the district. It is the opinion of your Committee that if the house of No. 5 or another, could be placed at the crossroads above where it now stands, and if one of the houses in No. 6, or if all three of them, could be transformed into one house located in some place more central than either of the present buildings, the 37 scholars of Nos. 5, 6, 10 and 11 could be far better accommodated.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

During the year a change from Greenleaf's arithmetic to Fish's Robinson's was made, and the change has proved a good one we think. There was a lack of uniformity in the Geographies in use throughout the town, which has now been remedied by introducing the latest edition of the same Geography before in use, Warren's. The old spelling books that have been in use in the town for so many years, and were so impractical and difficult, have been changed for Monroe's spellers. This change is not yet complete but will hold open for six months, or until the close of the spring term.

It is not the desire of the committee to make frequent changes in text books, but these changes we thought were demanded for the best interests of the schools. Further, the books we have introduced are all of them books that will cost less than the old ones, so that with the new books it will cost a scholar less for an outfit of books than it would had the old books been retained.

Mr. L. T. Webster is the authorized agent of the town for the sale of school books. His report will be found on another page.

THE TEACHERS.

There is no class of workers who have a greater anxiety in their work than our public school teachers. There are no persons deserving of more encouragement and of more hearty support from us. Our teachers represent, we think, as great if not greater proportion of faithful, industrious labor, as any

part of the community. They should have the sympathy and the earnest support of every parent. Parents should be very careful how they find fault with a teacher whose school they never visit, and who at best hear only a one-sided story. Emerson has somewhere written that we send our children to the schoolmaster but the school boys educate them. It is true in many ways that the influence of the scholars upon each other is more potent for their welfare than the influence of the teacher. We often hear parents complaining of this or that bad habit that their children have acquired at school. Some things no doubt are acquired which are bad, but how seldom do we stop to think how many bad habits our children take to school from home. The greater part of the trouble of school government comes from dealing with evils that the scholars take to school from home. In our supervision of the schools we have tried to encourage true manliness on the part of both scholars and teachers. We consider that not only is the intellectual training given to us but that we are responsible to a great degree for the moral character of the children. We ask the patrons of the schools, however, not to forget how great is their responsibility in this respect.

The committee are of the opinion that 9 months of school should be given to our children. There is a small amount unexpended which might have lengthened our schools a week or perhaps more. But there are always unforeseen items of expense and belated bills to come in. We would suggest that the town appropriate for the coming year \$2500, which with the unexpended balance will enable our schools to continue for 36 weeks of the year.

In conclusion allow us to urge upon the citizens the importance of sustaining the public schools, not only by ample appropriations of money but also by that personal interest and sympathy without which no amount of money can be effective.

J. L. MARSH, } School
ELIAS LYMAN, } Committee.

COST OF THE SCHOOLS.

The Selectmen report an actual expenditure on account of schools of		\$2152 53
Deduct from this amount expenses in- curred in the previous year as follows :		
District No. 3,	\$72 00	
“ No. 2,	128 35	
“ No. 7,	70 00	
		\$270 35
Balance actually spent for the past year,		\$1882 18
Add to this the amount due schools now in session, so far as we know, say :		
District No. 2,	\$120 00	
“ No. 5,	105 60	
“ No. 7,	96 00	
		\$321 60
Expense for the year,		\$2203 78
The available funds for school purposes the last year are as follows :		
Town appropriation,	\$2000 00	
State school fund,	225 85	
Surplus revenue,	52 00	
Dog tax,	102 80	
		\$2380 65
Expenses for the year,		2203 78
Balance on hand,		\$176 87

SCHOOL BOOK ACCCUNT.

L. T. Webster in account with Town of Northfield for School
Books sold on account of Town.

Cr.

1881.

July 18. By paid Knight, Adams & Co., 30 07

1882.

Jan. 4. paid Boston book supply, 40 05

Feb. " " " " 21 51

" " " " 6 00

books delivered during year to

poor persons, as per bill, 22 82

School books on hand, per inv. 79 68

———— \$200 13

Dr.

To books from R. C. Ward, as per invoice, \$79 67

Cash rec'd " " per J. L. Marsh, 5 15

May 9. To books, Knight & Adams, per bill, 30 07

Sep. 17. Cash rec'd for books from Nov. 7, 3 58

Oct. 15. Books, Boston B'k Supply bill, 40 05

Nov. 6. Cash from teacher No. 7, 76

Dec. 19. Books, Boston Supply Co. bill, 21 51

1882.

Jan. 9. 1000 Word spellers, " 6 00

Feb. 18. Due L. T. Webster, to balance, 13 34

———— \$200 13

REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Feb. 20, 1882.

No. of volumes in Library last report,	1906
“ “ purchased past year,	202
“ “ presented last year,	66
	2174
No of volumes not returned,	1
No. of volumes in Library Feb. 20, 1882,	2173
No. of families that have taken books,	163
No. of volumes circulated during the year.	4253

Your committee feel pleased to again commend the librarian Miss Flora E. Lane, for the faithful and orderly manner in which she has cared for the library during the past year. The books are all accounted for, neatly covered, and in their places. But twenty books need rebinding, a fact that speaks well for those who have taken books from the library. About 56 per cent. of the reading has been novels, 25 per cent. juvenile, the remainder historical, travels, biographies, scientific and religious. Your committee hope by means of good juvenile reading to cultivate a taste for more scientific works. The necessity for more room in our library is already obvious. The better way to provide for this is, to re-catalogue all the books and place many of those now on the shelves, and never taken out, in the book cases. This would leave *all* the books accessible, and this change can be made at an expense of about \$100 00, and would leave room for many new books in the library room.

We commend this change to your consideration at your annual meeting.

R. C. WARD,	} Library Committee.
F. H. WRIGHT,	
J. L. MARSH,	

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

In account with the Town of Northfield.

DR.

To cash on hand,	34 17	
Appropriation for new books,	200 00	
Appropriation librarian and incidentals,	75 00	
Cash received from fines,	8 74	
Cash received for damage of book,	40	
Cash received for book not returned,	1 50	
Cash received for book sold,	1 05	
		\$320 86

Cr.

1881.		
Mar. 17.	By paid exp. books from Amherst,	50
Apr. 2.	paid F. A. Slate, binding books,	10 80
"	paid P. O. order and stamps,	13
"	Miss Safford, book returned,	1 25
Apr. 7.	exp. books from New York,	1 00
May 12.	ft. on books from Boston,	1 20
"	for paper for library,	18
May 13.	for paper to cover books,	1 63
"	for 500 labels for books,	1 50
May 27.	exp. supplementary catalogue,	15
June 1.	for " "	7 00
July 6.	Loring, Short & Harmon, books 188	90
1882.		
Feb. 11.	Field & Hall, paper and labels,	4 14
Feb. 13.	Flora E. Lane, librarian,	60 00
"	" " as per bill,	1 75
	Cash in hands of Lib. Com	40 73
		\$320 86

